that date. The Chief Counsel determines whether to grant or deny the extension and the length of the extension.

(c) Upon receipt of a petition or request for an extension, the Chief Counsel shall postpone making the information available to the public in order to consider the petition, unless the Chief Counsel determines in writing that disclosure would be in the public interest.

(d) If a petition for reconsideration is granted, the petitioner is notified in writing of that determination and of any appropriate limitations.

(e) If a petition for reconsideration is denied in whole or in part or a request for an extension for additional time to submit a petition for reconsideration is denied, the petitioner is notified in writing of that denial, and is informed that the information will be made available to the public not less than ten working days after the petitioner has received notice of the denial of the petition, if practicable, or some earlier date if the Chief Counsel determines in writing that the public interest requires that the information be made available to the public on such earlier date. The written notification of a denial specifies the reasons for denying the petition.

§ 512.8 Modification of confidentiality determinations.

(a) A determination that information is confidential or privileged business information remains in effect in accordance with its terms, unless modified by a later determination based upon:

(1) Newly discovered or changed facts,

(2) A change in the applicable law,

(3) A class determination under § 512.10, or

(4) A finding that the prior determination is clearly erroneous.

(b) If NHTSA believes that an earlier determination of confidentiality should be modified based on one or more of the factors listed in paragraph (a)(1) through (a)(4) of this section, the submitter of the information is notified in writing that NHTSA has modified its earlier determination and of the reasons for that modification, and is informed that the information will

be made available to the public in not less than ten working days from the date of receipt of notice under this paragraph. The submitter may seek reconsideration of the modification pursuant to § 512.7.

§ 512.9 Release of confidential business information.

(a) Information that has been claimed or determined to be confidential business information under §§ 512.4, 512.6 or 512.7 may be disclosed to the public by the Administrator notwithstanding such determination or claim if disclosure would be in the public interest as follows:

(1) Information obtained under Part A, Subchapter I of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, relating to the establishment, amendment, or modification of Federal motor vehicle safety standards, may be disclosed when relevant to a proceeding under the part.

(2) Information obtained under Part B, Subchapter I of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, relating to motor vehicle safety defects, and failures to comply with applicable motor vehicle safety standards, may be disclosed if the Administrator determines that disclosure is necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

(3) Information obtained under title I, V or VI of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act may be disclosed when that information is relevant to a proceeding under the title under which the information was obtained.

(b) No information is disclosed under this section unless the submitter of the information is given written notice of the Administrator's intention to disclose information under this section. Written notice is normally given at least ten working days before the day of release, although the Administrator may provide shorter notice if the Administrator finds that such shorter notice is in the public interest. The notice under this paragraph includes a statement of the Administrator's reasons for determining to disclose the information, and affords the submitter of the information an opportunity to comment on the contemplated release of information. The Administrator may

also give notice of the contemplated release of information to other persons, and may allow these persons the opportunity to comment. When a decision is made to release information pursuant to this section, the Administrator will consider ways to make the release with the least possible adverse effects to the submitter.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, information which has been determined or claimed to be confidential business information, may be released:

(1) To Congress;

(2) Pursuant to an order of a court with valid jurisdiction;

(3) To the Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Transportation and other Executive branch offices or other Federal agencies in accordance with applicable laws;

(4) With the consent of the submitter of the information;

(5) To contractors, if necessary for the performance of a contract with the Administration. In such instances, the contract limits further release of the information to named employees of the contractor with a need to know and provides that unauthorized release constitutes a breach of the contract for which the contractor may be liable to third parties.

§ 512.10 Class determinations.

(a) The Chief Counsel may issue a class determination relating to confidentiality under this section if the Chief Counsel determines that one or more characteristics common to each item of information in that class will in most cases necessarily result in identical treatment of each item of information under this part, and that it is appropriate to treat all such items as a class for one or more purposes under this part. The Chief Counsel obtains the concurrence of the Office of the General Counsel, United States Department of Transportation, for any class determination that has the effect of raising the presumption that all information in that class is eligible for confidential treatment. Class determinations are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) A class determination clearly identifies the class of information to which it pertains.

(c) A class determination may state that all of the information in the class:

(1) Is or is not governed by a particular section of this part, or by a particular set of substantive criteria under this part,

(2) Fails to satisfy one or more of the applicable substantive criteria, and is therefore ineligible for confidential treatment,

(3) Satisfies one or more of the applicable substantive criteria, and is therefore eligible for confidential treatment, or,

(4) Satisfies one of the substantive criteria during a certain period of time, but will be ineligible for confidential treatment thereafter.

(d) Class determinations will have the effect of establishing rebuttable presumptions, and do not conclusively determine any of the factors set out in paragraph (c) of this section.

APPENDIX A TO PART 512—CERTIFICATE IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Certificate in Support of Request for Confidentiality

I, _____, pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 512, state as follows:

(1) I am (official) and I am authorized by (company) to execute documents on behalf of (company):

(2) The information contained in (pertinent document[s]) is confidential and proprietary data and is being submitted with the claim that it is entitled to confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. §522(b)(4) (as incorporated by reference in and modified by the statute under which the information is being submitted.)

(3) I have personally inquired of the responsible (company) personnel who have authority in the normal course of business to release the information for which a claim of confidentiality has been made to ascertain whether such information has ever been released outside (company).

(4) Based upon such inquiries, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief the information for which (company) has claimed confidential treatment has never been released or become available outside (company) except as hereinafter specified:

(5) I make no representations beyond those contained in this certificate and in particular, I make no representations as to